

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KABUL 03804 01 OF 02 101237Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 AID-05 MMO-01 A-01 PM-05
SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /056 W
-----059487 101304Z /64

O P 101126Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7929
SECDEF IMMEDIATE
INFO CINCPAC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 3804

SECDEF: FOR DSAA

CINCPAC: ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, AF
SUBJECT: STATUS OF U.S. MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM UNDER
NEW AFGHAN REGIME

1. SUMMARY: NOW THAT THE NEW REGIME SEEMS FIRMLY IN POWER IN
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA), THE EMBASSY WOULD
LIKE TO OFFER THE CONTINUATION OF OUR SMALL, BUT USEFUL IN-
TERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING (IMET) PROGRAM FOR
THIS COUNTRY. END OF SUMMARY

2. BEFORE THE AMBASSADOR AND DEFENSE ATTACHE PAY THEIR INITIAL
COURTESY CALL ON COLONEL ABDUL QADER, THE NEW MINISTER OF
NATIONAL DEFENSE, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER WE CAN CONTINUE
TO OFFER IMET PROFESSIONAL MILITARY TRAINING TO AFGHAN ARMY
AND AIR FORCE OFFICERS. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED
ANY VIEWS FROM THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING OVERALL
IMET PROGRAM, A MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE OFFICIAL EXPRESSED
ON MAY 3 NO OBJECTION AT THAT TIME TO THE SCHEDULED DEPARTURE
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SECRET

PAGE 02 KABUL 03804 01 OF 02 101237Z

OF A SPECIFIC IMET TRAINEE OFFICER, BUT THE LATTER WAS SUBSEQUENT-
LY "HELD UP." (SEE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS CASE IN PARAGRAPH
5A.)

3. A QUESTION UNCLEAR TO US IS WHETHER IMET IS AFFECTED BY U.S.
LEGISLATION SIMILAR TO THE RESTRICTION SECTION 620 (F) OF THE
"FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT" PLACES ON AID PROGRAMS. IF SO, MAY

WE PLEASE HAVE THE TEXTS OF THESE LEGAL PROVISIONS, AND THE DEPARTMENT'S ANALYSIS OF THEIR APPLICABILITY TO THE NEW SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN?

4. IF IT IS INDEED THE DESIRE OF THE NEW AFGHAN LEADERS TO BE NON-ALIGNED AND INDEPENDENT OF MOSCOW -- AND THAT IS THEIR STATED GOAL -- IMET WOULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO THE US AND THE DRA AND WOULD ASSIST OUR INTEREST IN HELPING AFGHANISTAN MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE. THE AFGHAN RESPONSE TO AN OFFER OF CONTINUED U.S. MILITARY TRAINING WOULD GIVE US AN INDICATION TOO OF THE DRA'S INTENTIONS AND POLICIES.

5. FROM A PRACTICAL VIEWPOINT WE HAVE A NUMBER OF SCHEDULED ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN UNDER THE CURRENT IMET PROGRAM, IF WASHINGTON PERCEIVES NO LEGAL OR POLICY IMPEDIMENTS -- AND THE NEW AFGHAN REGIME IS WILLING TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM:

A. ON MAY 3, MAJOR ABDUL HAKIM RASHID WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DEPARTED FROM KABUL FOR THE INFANTRY OFFICER ADVANCED COURSE. HE HAD BEEN GIVEN HIS TICKETS AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION SHORTLY BEFORE THE APRIL 27-29 REVOLUTION, AFTER WHICH WE LOST CONTACT WITH HIM. WHEN WE SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED HIS CASE WITH MAJOR RAMATULLAH OMID OF THE FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MND) ON THE MORNING OF MAY 3, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE MND HAD NO OBJECTION TO RASHID'S DEPARTURE FOR THE PROGRAM, BUT THAT HE HAD NOT YET "REPORTED" TO THE MND. THIS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KABUL 03804 01 OF 02 101237Z

RESPONSE MAY WELL HAVE INDICATED AN MND DESIRE TO LAY ITS HANDS ON RASHID FOR OTHER PURPOSES. WE SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE LEARNED FROM OMID THAT RASHID HAS BEEN "HELD UP."

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PAGE 01 KABUL 03804 02 OF 02 101256Z
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7930
SECDEF IMMEDIATE
INFO CINCPAC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 3804

SECDEF: FOR DSAA

CINCPAC: ALSO FOR POLAD

B. A MOBILE TRAINING TEAM FROM THE DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED TO COME TO KABUL IN MID-MAY TO ASSESS THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM OF THE AFGHAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND EVALUATE THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL LABORATORY EQUIPMENT. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO ASK THE MND WHETHER THIS VISIT SHOULD GO FORWARD AS SCHEDULED, BE POSTPONED, OR BE CANCELLED.

C. TWO AFGHAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS ARE DUE TO LEAVE FOR SQUADRON OFFICER SCHOOL ON MAY 31, AND TWO AFGHAN ARMY OFFICERS ARE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR THE US ARMY COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE ON JUNE 16. THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY INFORMALLY INDICATED APPROVAL OF THESE ASSIGNMENTS. IF THERE IS NO WASHINGTON OBJECTION, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO ASK THE NEW REGIME IF IT APPROVES THE FOUR CANDIDATES.

D. THERE ARE FOUR MORE SCHOOL SPACES IN SEPTEMBER FOR WHICH WE COULD ASK THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KABUL 03804 02 OF 02 101256Z

E. THE DAOUD REGIME WAS UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON A US-AFGHAN AGREEMENT COVERING THE PROFESSIONAL MILITARY TRAINING WE NOW OFFER UNDER THE IMET PROGRAM (KABUL 2871). SINCE U.S. LEGISLATION DOES NOT REQUIRE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE TYPE OF PROGRAM WE OPERATE HERE (STATE 039273), WE SEE NO GREAT HURRY TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH THE NEW AFGHAN LEADERSHIP UNTIL THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS DISCUSSED IN PARAGRAPH 5B AND C HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. WE WOULD THEN PROPOSE TO ASK THE NEW GOVERNMENT WHETHER IT IS WILLING TO COMPLETE THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES AS ALREADY NEGOTIATED.

6. RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO PROBE THE WILLINGNESS OF THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE THE IMET PROGRAM. IF THE AFGHAN RESPONSE IS POSITIVE, THAT THE EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO BROACH THE ITEMS OF BUSINESS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS 5A TO D. AN EARLY RESPONSE IS REQUESTED.
ELIOT

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